

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8977

S E C R E T USUN 3553

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, US, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN ADMISSION TO UN

REF: STATE 217404

1. AMB SHERER AND MISOFF KATZEN MET WITH MPLA REP
FIGUEIREDO AT UN, AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 2.

2. FIGUEIREDO BEGAN BY WISHING SECRETARY KISSINGER WELL
DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, AND
DURING THE VISIT TO AFRICA WHICH FIGUEIREDO HOPED
WOULD FOLLOW. PREDICTABLY, HE THEN TURNED TO THE QUESTION
OF UN ADMISSION FOR ANGOLA. FIGUEIREDO OBSERVED THAT TWO
OF THE CONDITIONS WHICH HAD PROMPTED US VETO DURING JUNE
NOW HAD BEEN REMOVED: THE POLITICAL CONVENTIONS WERE OVER
AND "THE CUBANS WERE LEAVING". WHEN ASKED FOR PRECISE
INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER A NET REDUCTION IN CUBAN FORCES
IN ANGOLA INDEED HAD OCCURRED, FIGUEIREDO REPLIED THAT
HE WAS CERTAIN CUBANS HAD LEFT, BUT THAT HE COULD NOT SAY
HOW MANY OR AT WHAT RATE. MOREOVER, CUBAN ARMED FORCES
IN ANGOLA WERE THERE SIMPLY TO TRAIN ANGOLAN MILITARY
AND THEIR PRESENCE WAS PURELY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE.
CUBAN MILITARY WOULD NOT BE STAGED FROM ANGOLA AGAINST
OTHER AFRICAN STATES. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO
HAVANA, FIGUEIREDO ADDED, NETO HAD SIGNED AGREEMENTS
WHICH WOULD ENGAGE CUBA IN ASSISTING ANGOLA IN MEDICAL
AND EDUCATIONAL FIELDS -- THIS WOULD BE THE THRUST OF

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FUTURE CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA.

3. FIGUEIREDO THEN BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF US RECOGNITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT. MANY AMERICANS WISH TO VISIT ANGOLA, HE OBSERVED, INCLUDING BUSINESSMEN. RECOGNITION -- WHICH ANGOLA SEEKS -- WOULD LEAD TO A FACILITATION OF THEIR TRAVEL, AND ACCELERATE AMERICAN-ANGOLAN COMMERCE. ADDITIONALLY, THE US MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ANGOLA IS IN EVERY WAY A "FRONT LINE STATE" AS CONCERNS SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

4. AMB SHERER SET FORTH POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL. HE URGED FIGUEIREDO TO DELAY WHAT APPEARS TO BE ANGOLAN INTENTION TO APPLY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 16. SHERER COUNSELED FIGUEIREDO THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR HIM TO RETURN TO LUANDA TO EXPLAIN OUR VIEWS. FIGUEIREDO HIMSELF APPEARED FAVORABLY DISPOSED, AND WELCOMED PARTICULARLY EXPRESSION OF USG DESIRE FOR AMICABLE RELATIONS WITH HIS GOVERNMENT.

5. ALTHOUGH FIGUEIREDO MENTIONED ELEMENTS OF NETO APPROACH, HE DID NOT REFER TO IT SPECIFICALLY. THERE WAS NO DOUBT LEFT IN FIGUEIREDO'S MIND CONCERNING OUR DESIRE THAT ANGOLAN APPLICATION BE DELAYED UNTIL RESULTS OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS HAVE BEEN ANALYZED AND UNTIL AFTER SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON NAMIBIA. NOR WAS ANY PROMISE MADE OF WHAT OUR REACTION TO AN ANGOLAN APPLICATION WOULD BE AFTER THAT PROCESS IS COMPLETED.

BENNETT

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